

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 1154

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT : MRS VANCE'S SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 062824

1. FSO MARGARET BARNHART, CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION, IS DESIGNATED AS ESCORT OFFICER FOR MRS VANCE. MY WIFE, JEANNE, WILL OF COURSE ALSO BE ON HAND TO HELP MRS CARTER AND MRS VANCE IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE DURING VISIT.

2. RE RIO PROGRAM, THE MUSEUM OF THE INDIAN WAS RECENTLY MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION AND THE NEW MUSEUM WILL ONLY REOPEN SOMETIME NEXT MONTH. MRS VANCE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER A VISIT TO THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM AS AN ALTERNATIVE. THE MUSEUM IS HOUSED IN A BUILDING ORIGINALLY BUILT IN 1767 AS AN ARSENAL. THE MUSEUM HOUSES DOCUMENTS, JEWELS, FURNITURE, ARMS, PAINTINGS, COINS, CARRIAGES, ETC., RELATED TO BRAZIL'S PAST.

3. TENNIS FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL WHERE MRS VANCE WILL BE STAYING. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THAT TENNIS AT THAT LOCALE OR AT ONE OF THE LOCAL CLUBS COULD BE PLAYED WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE PRESS. IF MRS VANCE DESIRES, WE COULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE USE OF A
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RESIDENTIAL COURT ALTHOUGH AGAIN WE DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE LOCAL PRESS IN COVERING VIP'S.

4. DESCRIPTION OF CORCOVADO: THE CABLE TRAIN TO CORCOVADO IS UNDERGOING EXTENSIVE REPAIRS AND WILL NOT BE FUNCTIONING AT THE TIME OF THE VISIT. HOWEVER, THE MOUNTAIN PEAK IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY CAR. THE STATUE OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER, 100

FEET HIGH, WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1931 BY FRENCH AND BRAZILIAN SCULPTORS. CORCOVADO IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS IN RIO (2,310 FEET) AND PROVIDES AN IMPRESSIVE PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE ENTIRE RIO DE JANEIRO AREA. (AN ALTERNATIVE VISIT WOULD BE TO SUGAR LOAF (1,350 FEET) IN A TWO STAGE SUSPENDED CABLE CAR. SUGAR LOAF PROVIDES ESSENTIALLY THE SAME PANORAMIC VIEW AS CORCOVADO AT A LOWER ELEVATION AND A CLOSER PROXIMITY TO THE CITY CENTER.)

5. RESTAURANTS: RIO IS NOT NOTED FOR ITS RESTAURANTS OR ITS CUISINE -- THE FORMER ARE GENERALLY OVERPRICED AND THE LATTER IS USUALLY UNIMAGINATIVE. THE MOST POPULAR TYPE OF RESTAURANT IS A BARBECUE ROAST MEAT SPECIALITY HOUSE WHERE THE SETTING IS GENERALLY VERY FUNCTIONAL. OTHER RESTAURANTS TEND TOWARDS FRENCH, ITALIAN OR ETHNIC CUISINE. AMONG MODEST RESTAURANTS SERVING TYPICAL BRAZILIAN FOOD ARE CHALE BRASILEIRO AND MARIA TEREZA WEISS. WHICH LEAVES US WITH THE FRENCH/INTERNATIONAL GROUPING WHICH WE SUSPECT WOULD PROVIDE BOTH FOOD AND ATMO-SPHERE MORE CONGENIAL THAN RESTAURANTS IN THE OTHER CATEGORIES -- ALTHOUGH THE COLOR IS MORE LIKELY TO BE INTERNATIONAL RATHER THAN LOCAL. AMONG THE BEST ARE: ANTIQUARIUS (FURNISHED WITH BRAZILIAN ANTIQUES), ANTONIO'S (LONG-ESTABLISHED FAVORITE OF ELITE), MICHEL, CONCORDE, ETC. FOOD IS AVAILABLE AT SEVERAL SPOTS NOTED PRIMARILY FOR THEIR SAMBA SHOWS: OBA-OBA, SAMBAO E SINHA AND LAS BRASAS. SHOWS FEATURING SCANTILY, BUT DECENTLY CLAD DANCERS BEGIN AT 11:30, MIDNIGHT, AND 10:30
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FOR THE THREE NIGHT CLUBS CITED. OUR RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE FOR MRS VANCE TO DINE AT ONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANTS CITED ABOVE.

6. UNFORTUNATELY, VISIT WILL COME AT A TIME BETWEEN OPERAS. NOR, SO FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, ARE ANY CONCERTS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 30. SEVERAL POPULAR BRAZILIAN SINGERS WILL BE PERFORMING IN CONCERTS/SHOWS AT THAT TIME. WE WILL PROVIDE PRECISE INFORMATION CONCERNING SUCH SHOWS LATER IF THIS WOULD BE OF INTEREST. WE WOULD HESITATE TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING ATTENDING A POPULAR MUSIC SHOW UNTIL WE OBTAIN A BETTER READING ON WHO MIGHT BE PERFORMING AT THAT TIME.

7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHOPPING FOR LOCAL HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING A VISIT TO A GEM FACTORY, CAN BE SCHEDULED IF MRS VANCE DESIRES.

8. MRS VANCE'S GRACIOUS INVITATION FOR CONGEN WIVES TO COFFEE IS MOST APPRECIATED. WE BELIEVE THAT HOTEL WOULD BE MOST CONVENIENT VENUE. WE WILL MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS AT HOTEL WHEN INSTRUCTED.

DEXTER

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